

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

There are many steps in the development of a thoroughfare plan. There are also many people involved with its development. After an abundance of data is collected and deficiencies in the highway system are determined; a solution must be decided upon. The solution is worked out through a series of meetings with the local government, citizens, and NCDOT. This section presents the sequence of meetings leading to the adoption of the Whiteville/Brunswick Urban Area Thoroughfare Plan. NCDOT staff is present for the majority of this meetings.

1) August 30, 1994 --- Initial Meeting with Jeff Emory, Whiteville City Manager

The primary responsibility of the Statewide Planning Branch to assist the local area and to create an efficient, cost-effective plan for the improvement of an urban area's road system to meet future needs was discussed. The objectives and development of a thoroughfare plan was provided in a brochure.

A timetable we hoped to follow in developing the thoroughfare plan was presented. The scheduling of a meeting with the City Planning Board was requested. This meeting would explain the thoroughfare planning process to them and get their opinion of Whiteville's traffic needs and future growth. Next, an informal one-on-one workshop would be scheduled to inform the general public of the purpose of the study.

A traffic analysis of the area would be conducted, and then our findings and preliminary recommendations would be presented to city officials. The city officials can express their likes, dislikes, suggests, complaints, additions, etc., at this time or at any time during the process. After the City approves, a formal public hearing will be scheduled. The Proposed Recommended Thoroughfare Plan would be laid out for the public's viewing and recorded comments. The thoroughfare plan will be offered to the City Council for official adoption as the Recommended Thoroughfare Plan, after any revisions. The final step is mutual adoption of the plan by the North Carolina Board of Transportation.

2) October 3, 1994 --- Initial Meeting with Mayor Bennett William, Town of Brunswick

The primary responsibility of the Statewide Planning Branch and a timetable we hoped to follow in developing the thoroughfare plan was presented like above to Whiteville. During our discussion, we solicited comments on Brunswick's current traffic needs, and the areas where future growth is expected.

3) October 3, 1994 --- Meeting with the Whiteville Planning Board

The basic concepts of the thoroughfare plan were discussed. The meeting helped identify the areas of future growth in the Whiteville area, including the proposed industrial park near